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**Statement submitted by Youth Awareness and Guidance
Organisation, Agbarha-Otor, a non-governmental organization in
consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.



Statement

In 2000, the Government of Nigeria and 188 other Governments made the Millennium Declaration and committed themselves to eradicating poverty and attaining the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

In meeting the Goals, there have been challenges in different areas for Nigeria. For Goal 1, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, which is crucial to existence, there has been no change. Poverty and hunger reign supreme for lack of employment. The quality of life and life expectancy are below standard. The Government has failed to collaborate with grass-roots non-governmental organizations that can reach the majority of the population.

On Goal 2, achieving universal primary education, a reduction in illiteracy has been achieved, as observed in Delta State. This has an important role in national development. Delta State has also done well in trying to achieve Goals 4 and 5, reducing child mortality and improving maternal health.

Promoting gender equality and empowering women is still greatly needed, given that women are the bedrock of every family. Women should be given equal opportunities to strive. The remaining Goals have a significant impact on the masses, given that the majority of the people are not well informed, especially in rural areas. One of the things observed that contributes to challenges in achieving the Goals is a language barrier, i.e. being able to understand what is taught in English.

There should be promulgation of legislation for free and compulsory basic education and activities should be organized to create awareness for nation-building, involving civil society and non-governmental organizations so that they will mobilize and undertake advocacy for the Goals at the community level. Human capacity-building should be initiated through training and use of local languages because this can help to sustain the Goals in the future.